

NIT

The tender leaves of hopes, to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him;
The third day comes a frost, a killing frost;
And when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is a ripening, *nips* his root;
And then he falls as I do. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*

A flower doth spread and dye,
Thou would'st extend me to some good,
Before I were by frost's extremity *nip* in the bud. *Herb.*
His delivery now proves

Abortive, as the first-born bloom of spring,
Nips with the lagging rear of winter's frost. *Milton.*
Had he not been *nipped* in the bud, he might have made a
formidable figure in his own works among posterity. *Add.*
From such encouragement it is easy to guess to what per-
fection I might have brought this great work, had it not been
nip in the bud. *Arbutnot's John Bull.*

4. To pinch as frost.

The air bites shrewdly, it is very cold. —

—It is a *nipping* and an eager air. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*

When thistles hang by the wall,
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail;
When blood is *nip*, and ways be foul;
Then nighty fings the staring owl. *Sba. Love's L. Lett.*

5. To vex; to bite.

And sharp remorse his heart did prick and *nip*,
That drops of blood thence like a well did play. *Fairy Q.*

6. To fatigue; to ridicule; to taunt sarcastically.

But the right gentle mind would bite his lip
To hear the javel so good men to *nip*. *Hobbes's Tale.*

Quick wits commonly be in desire new-fangled; in pur-
pose unconstant; bold with any person; busy in every mat-
ter; fooling such as be present, *nipping* any that is absent.

Ascham's Schoolmaster.

NIP, *n. f.* [from the verb.]

1. A pinch with the nails or teeth.

I am sharply taunted, yea, sometimes with pinches, *nips*,
and bobs. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

2. A small cut.

What this a sleeve? 'tis like a demicannon;
What up and down car'd like an apple-tart?
Here's *nip*, and *nip*, and cut, and flish, and flath,
Like to a canter in a barber's shop. *Shakespeare.*

3. A blast.

So hasty fruits and too ambitious flow'rs,
Scorning the midwifery of rip'ning show'rs,
In flight of frosts, spring from th' unwilling earth,
But find a *nip* untimely as their birth. *Stepney.*

4. A taunt; a sarcasm.

NIPPER, *n. f.* [from *nip*.] A taunt. Out of use.

Ready backbiters, fore *nippers*, and spiteful reporters privily
of good men. *Ascham.*

NIPPER, *n. f.* [from *nip*.] Small pincers.

NIPPERING, *n. f.* [from *nip*.] Biting. Bitter sarcasm.

NIPPLE, *n. f.* [from *nip*.] A nipple.

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1. The teat; the dug; that which the sucking young take in-
to their mouths.

Tho' tender 'tis to love the babe that milks me. —
I would, while it was smiling in my face,
Have plucked my *nipple* from his boneless gums. *Shakespeare.*

In creatures that nourish their young with milk, are adapt-
ed the *nipples* of the breast to the mouth and organs of suc-
tion. *Roy on the Creation.*

2. The orifice at which any animal liquor is separated.

In most other birds there is only one gland, in which are
divers little cells ending in two or three larger cells, lying
under the *nipple* of the oil bag. *Derham's Physica Theol.*

NIPPLEWORT, *n. f.* [Lampfana.] A very common weed.

NISI PRIUS, *n. f.*

[In law.] A judicial writ, which lieth in case where the
inquest is pannelled, and returned before the justices of the
bank; the one party or the other making petition to have
the writ for the case of the country. It is directed to the
sheriff, commanding that he cause the men impanelled to
come before the justices in the same county, for the deter-
mining of the cause there, except it be so difficult that it
need great deliberation: in which case, it is sent again to
the bank. It is so called from the first words of the writ
nisi apud talem locum prius venerint; whereby it appeareth,
that justices of assizes and justices of *nisi prius*, differ. So
that justices of *nisi prius*, must be one of them before whom
the cause is depending in the bench, with some other good
men of the county associated to him. *Cowd.*

NIT, *n. f.* [nitens, Saxon.] The egg of a louse, or small
animal.

The whame, or burrel-fly, is vexatious to horses in sum-
mer, not by stinging them, but only by their bombilious
noise, or tickling them in sucking their *nits*, or eggs, on the
hair. *Derham's Physica Theol.*

NITREX, *n. f.* [nitentia, Latin.]

1. Lustre; clear brightness.

NIT

2. [From the Latin, *nitro*.] Endeavour; spring to expand it-
self.

The atoms of fire accelerate the motion of these particles;
from which acceleration their spring, or endeavour outward
will be augmented; that is, those zones will have a strong
tendency to fly wider open. *Boyle.*

NITRE, *n. f.* A coward, dastard, poltroon.

NITRE, *adj.* [nitidus, Latin.] Bright; shining; lustrous.

We restore old pieces of dirty gold to a clean and *nitid* yel-
low, by putting them into fire and aqua fortis, which take
off the adventitious filth. *Boyle on Colours.*

NITRE, *n. f.* [nitro, Fr. nitrum, Latin.]

The salt which we know at this time, under the name of
nitre or salt-petre, is a crystalline pellicle, but somewhat
whitish substance, of an acid and bitterish taste, impressing
a peculiar sense of coldness upon the tongue. This salt,
though it affords, by means of fire, an acid spirit capable of
dissolving almost every thing, yet manifests no sign of its
containing any acid at all in its crude state. *Nitre* is of the
number of those salts which are naturally blended in imper-
ceptible particles in earths, stones, and other solid sub-
stances, as the particles of metals are in their ores: it is
sometimes however found pure, in form of an efflorescence,
either on its ores or on the surface of old walls; these ef-
florences dissolved in proper water, shooting into regular
and proper crystals of *nitre*. That this salt should be found
on the surface of walls is not wonderful, since it is found
only on or near the surface of the earth where it is produced.
The earth from which *nitre* is made, both in Persia and the
East-Indies, is a kind of yellowish marl found in the bare
cliffs of the sides of hills exposed to the northern and eastern
winds, and never in any other situation. From this marl
the salt is separated by water; but the crystals into which it
shoots, as we receive them from the East-Indies, are small,
imperfect, and impure. Earths of whatever kind, moistened
by the dung and excrement of animals, frequently afford *ni-
tre* in large quantities. The earths at the bottom of pigeon-
houses, and those of stables and cow-houses, all afford *ni-
tre*, on being thrown into water and boiled. In France, where
very little *nitre* is imported, they make it from the rubbish
of old mortar and plaster of buildings; and the mortar of
old walls with us, if moistened with urine and exposed to the
air in a proper situation that is open to the south-east,
and covered over to defend it from wet, never fails to afford
and covered over to defend it from wet, never fails to afford
nitre in a few weeks, and that in proportion of one tenth of
the weight of the ingredients. There is no question but a
manufactory of *nitre* might be established in England to as
much advantage as that of France. The place where the
materials are exposed, is to be carefully examined. It must
be moderate as to the great points of moisture and dryness;
if there be too much moisture the *nitre* which is already
formed will be washed away, and without some moisture
the salts will hardly be ever formed. Heat and coldness,
unless excessive, can be of no consequence. It is on account
of the requisiteness of so certain a degree of moisture to the
materials from which *nitre* is obtained, that the north-east
winds are of so much use in the production of it. In spring
and autumn, which are the seasons when this salt is prin-
cipally made, these two winds are neither too moist nor too
dry, especially in the night; the south and west winds are
destructive, because they bring storms and showers. In me-
dicine, *nitre* is cooling and diuretic, and good in burning fe-
vers. The natrum or *nitre* of the ancients, is a genuine, na-
tive, and pure salt, extremely different from our *nitre*, and from
all other native salts; being a fixed alkali plainly of a na-
ture of those made by fire from vegetables, yet being cap-
able of a regular crystallization, which those salts are not.
It is found on or very near the surface of the earth, in thin
flat cakes, spongy, light, and friable; and when pure, of a
pale brownish white colour. It is of an acid taste, like
pot-ashes. About Smyrna and Ephesus, and through a great
part of Asia Minor, this salt is extremely frequent on the
surface of the earth, and also in Syria; a province of the
inner Asia, where they sweep it up and call it soap-earth,
using a solution or lye of it in washing. The natrum or *ni-
tre* of the ancients, has been by some supposed to be a *ni-
tre* of the ancients, and by others to be the same with our *nitre* or
salt-petre; but both these opinions are erroneous, this salt
being the true natrum of the ancients, answering perfectly
to its description, and having all its uses and virtues. In
scripture we find that the salt called *nitre* would ferment with
vinegar, and had an absterive quality, properties which per-
fectly agree with this salt but not with salt-petre, as so many
different qualities ascribed to it by the ancients. *Hill on Foss.*

Some tumultuous cloud, hurried him. *Milton.*

Some steep their feed, and some in cauldrons boil. *Dryden.*

With vigorous *nitre* and with lees of oil. *Dryden.*

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NOB

Earth and water, mingled by the heat of the sun, gather
a *nitrous* fatness more than either of them have severally.

Bacon's Natural History.

The northern air being more fully charged with those
particles supposed *nitrous*, which are the aliment of fire, is
sufficient to maintain the vital heat in that activity which is suf-
ficient to move such an unwieldy bulk with due celerity. *Roy.*

He to quench his drought so much inclin'd,
May snowy fields and *nitrous* pastures find,
Meet stores of cold so greedily purf'd,
And be refresh'd with never-waiting food. *Blackmore.*

NITRE, *adj.* [from *nitro*.] Nitrous.

Winter my theme confines; whose *nitry* wind
Shall craft the flabby mire, and kennels bind. *Gay.*

NITRE, *adj.* [from *nitro*.] Lousily.

One Bell was put to death at Tyburn for moving a new
rebellion; he was a man *nitry* needy, and therefore ad-
venturous. *Hoyward.*

NITRE, *adj.* [from *nitro*.] Abounding with the eggs of lice.

NITRE, *adj.* [from *nitro*.] Abounding with snow. *Di.*